

# SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE DESERVES CREDIT FOR FISCAL DISCIPLINE

(Mr. HILL of Montana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL of Montana. Mr. Speaker, a year ago the President and the Congress said that we should set aside the future Social Security surpluses 100 percent for Social Security. Then the President startled us all because he came here for the State of the Union and he said let us spend 38 percent of Social Security on 71 new spending programs. Then he submitted a budget that said, no, let us spend 42 percent of Social Security on those new spending programs.

The House rejected that budget and yesterday the House sent a strong message to the President that it was not going to support his tax increase, and last night it appears that the President finally got the message and he has agreed to a budget that will save Social Security.

It appears that we have broken the President's addiction to new taxes and higher spending. I applaud the President for joining Republicans saying we are going to balance the budget, save Social Security, and do without taxes.

But I cannot applaud the minority leader, who still remains addicted to spending and taxes, who press accounts say have instructed Democrats to obstruct the process, vote no on everything, make sure we tie up everything as much as we can.

The person who deserves credit, Mr. Speaker, is Speaker HASTERT who has led us with this fiscal discipline.

## SAVE US FROM REPUBLICAN GRAB BAG OF GIMMICKS

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my alarm over the Republicans' handling of the budget.

First they gave us the Robin-Hood-in-reverse strategy, take from the poor and give to the rich. That was a big tax cut for the rich where most of the money went to the wealthiest Americans and regular, average citizens got very little.

When that did not work they now come up with a grab bag of gimmicks. That is \$46 billion in gimmicks to disguise the fact that they are in fact raiding the Social Security Trust Fund. They are trying to tell us now that the census is emergency funding. They are trying to tell us that routine military funding is emergency spending, a grab bag of gimmicks.

But third, they now have the fiction of saving Social Security, when the Congressional Budget Office has clear-

ly stated they are already raiding the Social Security Trust Fund to the tune of \$13 billion and at the rate they are going they will reach \$24 billion.

So save us from their strategy, save us from their gimmicks, and save us from their fiction.

What we need is real cooperation on addressing America's real needs and a sound budget that does not benefit the wealthy.

## TALK IS CHEAP—TIME FOR ACTION HAS ARRIVED

(Mr. OSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to essentially commend the leadership of this House and the administration for getting together and agreeing that Social Security needs to be saved. But the time for talk is done. The time for action has arrived.

The problem that we face is that we have yet to receive a single piece of evidence as to what the administration's plan for saving Social Security is.

We have gone from January 6, the day I arrived here, now 293 days without any evidence whatsoever from the administration as to what their plan is for saving Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate but true. Facts are facts. There is no plan yet put forward by the administration to save Social Security. Talk is cheap. The time for action is now. Every day older, the further behind we get.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the President to put his plan forward.

## VOICES AGAINST VIOLENCE TEEN CONFERENCE

(Mr. KIND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the outstanding efforts of three of my constituents who are participating in the Voices Against Violence Teen Conference in the Capitol this week.

Susan Yang is a senior from La Crosse Central High School. Susan has been involved in efforts to curb youth violence and drug use throughout her teens and is a real role model within the Hmong community in western Wisconsin.

Lucas Meyers is a senior at Hudson Senior High School in Wisconsin. Lucas is the student body President and editor-in-chief of his school paper and is a natural leader involved in many aspects of his community and school.

Finally, Sergeant Roger Barnes of La Crosse Police Department, who is a coordinator for the D.A.R.E. and the

G.R.E.A.T. programs back home. Sergeant Barnes has dedicated his law enforcement career to the betterment of youth in our community and works tirelessly to see that all our children have better options in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to pay attention to what they and the other 350 students who have assembled here in the Capitol this week have to say at this conference so that we may work together in a bipartisan fashion to implement policy to prevent youth violence in all of our communities.

## EDUCATION IN AMERICA

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, let us talk education. We can all agree on the need to spend money on our public schools. And I hope we can also agree that America's parents have not been getting their money's worth.

Student achievements continues to lag even as spending rises. A lack of discipline plagues thousands of classrooms. School accountability to parents is sorely missing. Many teachers are not getting the training they need to teach their students what they need to know.

So why do so many liberal Democrats continue to oppose real education reform? How can they say they want strong public schools while they vote for the very regulations that weaken public schools?

These advocates of the status quo are defending the indefensible. They are trapping America's most disadvantaged children in a system that has failed them. And they are putting the future of millions of American children in jeopardy. It is long past time to fix the broken system. It is past time to try new ways of doing things, but it is not too late.

## PRESIDENT'S BUDGET ON THE TABLE AND BALANCED

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have listened to some of our earlier speakers this morning and I wonder what their question is and why they do not have an answer.

Mr. Speaker, the President's budget has been on the table, and it is a balanced budget. It does protect Social Security and Medicare. It is interesting that they are on a fishing expedition on the other side of the aisle, looking for the President's budget and wondering what is the direction that this Congress should take.

Well, the one direction we should not take is the gimmickry that we see on